

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of forming porous particles, the method comprising:

providing an aqueous suspension of composite particles that comprise, the composite particles comprising at least a first material that is not soluble in a supercritical fluid carbon dioxide and a second material that is soluble in a supercritical fluid carbon dioxide, wherein the first material is a solid selected from the group consisting of pharmaceuticals, biodegradable polymers, biological agents and combinations of two or more thereof, and

the second material is a solid selected from the group consisting of lipids, waxes, polymers, sugar acetates and fluorocarbons; and ~~contacting~~ bubbling supercritical carbon dioxide through the aqueous suspension of composite particles with the supercritical fluid to extract the second material from the composite particles and thus form an aqueous suspension of porous particles comprising the first material suspended in water, the porous particles ~~having have~~ an aerodynamic size range of from about 0.5 to about 5 microns and a geometric volume diameter of from about 1 to about 20 microns.

Claims 2-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of forming porous particles ~~having a desired degree of porosity~~, the method comprising:

providing a supercritical fluid;

providing a first material that is not soluble in ~~a the~~ supercritical fluid, wherein the first material is a solid selected from the group consisting of pharmaceuticals, biodegradable polymers, biological agents and combinations of two or more thereof, and;

providing a second material that is soluble in-a the supercritical fluid, wherein the second material is a solid selected from the group consisting of lipids, waxes, polymers, sugar acetates and fluorocarbons;

contacting the first material and the second material together ~~under conditions adequate to form composite particles, wherein the amount and distribution of the second material in the composite particles determines the porosity of the resulting porous particles;~~

dispersing the composite particles in a solvent that is not soluble in the supercritical fluid to form a suspension of composite particles; and

~~contacting~~bubbling the supercritical fluid through the suspension of composite particles ~~with the supercritical fluid~~ to extract the second material from the composite particles and thus form a suspension of porous particles comprising the first material, wherein the porous particles ~~having~~ have an aerodynamic size range of from about 0.5 to about 5 microns and a geometric volume diameter of from about 1 to about 20 microns.